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GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Northumberland

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

year ended 31st December, 1970

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OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	H.C.T. Smith, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.P.A.
Chief Public Health Inspector	George Stenger, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector	Thomas W. Gibson, M.A.P.H.I.
Technical Assistant	Stephen Taylor, Commenced 6th July 1970.
Clerks:	Mrs. D. Kershaw
	Miss E. Jastrzab

Tel: Gosforth 854004

Lansdowne Terrace East,
GOSFORTH,
Northumberland.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Gosforth Urban District Council.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present the annual report on the health of the district during 1970.

The birth rate for Gosforth is again low. Northumberland and Newcastle have a birth rate which has declined from above to below the national average in the last decade. The reasons for this are obscure. The birth rate for Gosforth has been consistently below that of Northumberland and Newcastle and showing the same decline relative to the national average.

The death rate in 1970 when corrected to allow for the age structure of the population and institutions within the district was low in spite of an outbreak of influenza in the early weeks of the year. The figures relating to stillbirths and infant deaths are at low levels and while the figures for any one year are not a reliable guide, being based on small numbers, the quinquennial figures given on pages 5 and 8 show that Gosforth has a good record in comparison with national and other local statistics.

During 1970 there was an increase in the number of notifications of tuberculosis and this is gone into as are certain matters relating to food poisoning and infectious diseases.

No comment on water supply has been made in my section of the report since 1964. Figures have been given in Mr. Stenger's section which reveal that the standard of the supply has remained at a consistently high level. Sampling has revealed a percentage of excellent samples well above 99% when a figure of 97% is regarded as the normal standard. Fluoride has been added to the Whittle Dene supply since October 1968 and the chemical analysis reveals that this fluoride is maintained close to the optimum of 1.0 milligrams per litre. The water is of moderate hardness which is of interest in view of recent work on association between softness of water and the incidence of cardio vascular disease.

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The institution of smoke control areas in Gosforth has for a long time been advocated by Mr. Stenger and myself. It is good to know that the Council have now accepted this policy and that during 1970 the first steps were taken to have a smoke control area within the district.

The Council have maintained a mortuary at Three Mile Bridge. This mortuary has hardly been used in recent years and being in an isolated situation was subject to vandalism. The mortuary was closed in September, 1970. Mortuary facilities are available at Newcastle and Tynemouth hospitals.

A Medical Officer of Health does very little without the help of other persons. Once again I would like to thank the local doctors and the other officers of the Council for their co-operation. In the department, being a part-time officer, I have had to lean heavily on the ready co-operation of Mr. Stenger on all matters and I would like to place on record my debt to him and to Mr. Gibson, Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Kershaw and Miss Jastrzab.

Lastly, I would like to thank the members of the Council for their continuing interest in and ready support of the work of this department.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H.C.T. SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	1,739
Registrar General's estimated population	27,220
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book at 1st April, 1970.	9,395
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£ 4,460
Rateable value at 1st April, 1970.	£ 1,124,070

Population trends -

1951	24,500
1956	24,810
1961	26,600
1962	26,780
1963	26,800
1964	27,410
1965	27,400
1966	27,510
1967	27,540
1968	27,520
1969	27,390
1970	27,220

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Numbers</u>			<u>Rates</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	
LIVE BIRTHS	167	180	347	
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population				12.7
Comparability factor	0.97			
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population				12.3
Ratio of locally adjusted birth rate to national rate				0.77
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS	5	15	20	
Illegitimate live birth rate per 100 live births ..				5.8
STILLBIRTHS	1	3	4	
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths				11.4
INFANT DEATHS (Death in the first year)	1	2	3	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births				8.6
Legitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 live legitimate births ..				9.1
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 live . illegitimate births				Nil
NEONATAL DEATHS (Deaths in the first 4 weeks)	1	2	3	
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births				8.6
PERINATAL DEATHS (Deaths in the first week and stillbirths)	2	5	7	
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths				19.9
There have been no MATERNAL DEATHS since 1960				
DEATHS	163	185	348	
Crude death rate per 1,000 population				12.8
Comparability factor	0.78			
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 population				10.0
Ratio of locally adjusted death rate to national rate ..				0.85

Comparison with previous years

Year	Birth Rate (Adjusted)	Illegi- timate Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Death Rate (Adjusted)
1956-60	16.3	2.7	22.2	14.3	11.6	33.0	11.6
1961-65	15.8	4.3	20.4	18.6	13.3	31.8	11.7
1966-70	13.2	5.1	10.7	11.2	9.6	18.5	10.9
1966	14.4	3.9	7.3	12.3	9.8	17.0	11.7
1967	13.6	4.9	10.3	15.6	15.6	25.7	10.1
1968	12.8	4.9	10.9	8.3	5.5	13.6	11.5
1969	12.7	5.8	13.7	11.1	8.3	16.4	11.3
1970	12.3	5.8	11.4	8.6	8.6	19.9	10.0

Comparison with other Areas - 1970

	Birth Rate (Adjusted)	Illegi- timate Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Death Rate (Adjusted)	Comparability Factors Births Deaths
England & Wales	16.0	8.2	13.0	19.2	12.3	23.5	11.7	1.00 1.00
Northumberland Admin. County	14.0	5.7	12.8	16.0	10.9	21.4	12.9	1.01 1.03
Newcastle County Borough	14.1	12.0	11.6	20.4	12.6	20.5	14.7	1.00 1.10
South Area of Northumberland	12.2	5.6	11.7	11.7	7.6	17.7	12.8	0.96 1.00
Gosforth U.D.	12.3	5.8	11.4	8.6	8.6	19.9	10.0	0.97 0.78
Newburn U.D.	17.0	5.6	4.8	12.8	4.8	7.9	13.2	1.06 1.39
Castle Ward R.D.	8.1	6.3	19.7	14.3	11.5	30.9	12.2	0.86 0.75

COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS - 1966-70

	Adjusted Birth Rate	Illegitimate Birth Rate	Stillbirth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Adjusted Death Rate
England & Wales	16.9	8.3	14.1	18.3	12.4	24.6	11.6
Northumberland Admin. County	14.5	5.6	13.9	17.2	12.0	23.7	12.8
Newcastle County Borough	15.0	11.8	14.7	21.3	12.8	24.7	14.0
South Area of Northumberland	13.0	4.8	10.6	14.9	11.2	19.5	12.3
Gosforth Urban District	13.2	5.1	10.7	11.2	9.6	18.5	10.9
Newburn Urban District	16.8	4.8	8.8	18.7	11.2	16.8	12.8
Castle Ward Rural District	9.7	5.0	12.1	15.4	13.0	23.9	10.6

Principal Causes of Death

	Home		St. Nicholas Hospital		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Cancer	67	27.5	3	2.9	70	20.1
Ischaemic heart disease	55	22.5	8	7.7	63	18.1
Cerebro vascular disease	40	16.4	8	7.7	48	13.8
All other heart and circulatory disease	22	9.0	13	12.5	35	10.1
Respiratory disease	29	11.9	52	50.0	81	23.3
All other disease	16	6.6	8	7.7	24	6.9
Accidents and suicide	15	6.1	12	11.5	27	7.7
	<u>244</u>		<u>104</u>		<u>348</u>	

Place of Death

	Home	St. Nicholas Hospital	Other Hospitals	Total
A. Deaths in district	146	159	1	306
*B. Outward transfers	16	57	1	74
C. Remaining in district (A-B)	130	102	-	232
*D. Inward transfers	114	2	-	116
E. Total deaths assigned to district (C+D)	244	104	-	348

*B. Persons with less than 6 months residence in the district

*D. Mostly persons belonging to Gosforth who died in hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Causes of Stillbirths

1. Ante-partum haemorrhage
2. Postmaturity
3. Cause unknown

Causes of Infant Deaths

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Prematurity | Death in hospital at 6 hrs. |
| 2. (a) Hyaline membrane disease (b) Prematurity | " " " " 1 day. |
| 3. Prematurity | " " " " 2 days |

Deaths from Cancer

Site of Disease

Age at Death

		15+	25+	35+	45+	55+	65+	75+	Total
Stomach	M	-	-	-	1	1	-	2 (1)	4 (1)
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Pancreas	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Liver	M	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Colon	M	-	-	-	-	-	2	- (1)	2 (1)
	F	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	6
Rectum	M	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Lung	M	-	-	-	1	9	5	-	15
	F	-	-	-	-	2 (1)	1	1	4 (1)
Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	5
Uterus	F	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	3
Ovary	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Bladder	M	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kidney	M	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sarcoma of Testis	M	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Reticulum cell	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Sarcoma	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lymphoma of chest	M	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
cavity	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primary site	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
unknown	F	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	3
TOTAL	M	-	-	1	2	13	12	7 (2)	35 (2)
	F	1	1	-	2	6 (1)	4	18	32 (1)

The figures in brackets refer to deaths of residents of St. Nicholas Hospital

Accidental Deaths

Age

	1+	5+	15+	25+	35+	45+	55+	65+	75+	Total
<u>Motor vehicle accidents</u>										
Pedestrian/Car	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
Motor scooter/Pedestrian	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pillion passenger/Tree	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<u>All other accidents</u>										
Burns. Nightdress caught fire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fractured femur	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other fractures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-(1)	-(3)	1(7)	1(11)
Old fracture of skull	-	-	-	-(1)	-	-	-	1	1	2
TOTALS	-	-	1	-(1)	-	-	1	2	3	7(1)
	1	-	-	-	-	-	-(1)	1(3)	2(7)	4(11)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Table of cases notified in the Urban District during 1970, set out in age groups.

DISEASE	At all ages	Under 1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15-64	65 and over
Measles	207	6	114	86	1	-
Whooping Cough	3	-	2	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	2	-	-
Infectious Jaundice	16	-	-	10	6	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	1	-
Dysentery	5	1	1	3	-	-

MONTH OF NOTIFICATION

[illegible]

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Influenza.

An outbreak of influenza due to the Hong Kong variant of the Influenza A₂ virus began around Christmas-time 1969, reached its peak early in January and then rapidly subsided. The Ministry of Social Security office which covers Gosforth and part of Newcastle reported claims for sickness benefit as follows, the numbers being a percentage of the Summer average.

Week ending 30th December	-	189
7th January	-	305
14th January	-	337
21st January	-	216
28th January	-	148

The total number of deaths from all causes was high in the first three weeks of 1970 and it was then that the seven deaths directly attributed to influenza occurred. The increase in the number of deaths at home was more noticeable than the increase in the number of deaths at St. Nicholas Hospital.

It would seem that the outbreak in this area was not so severe as in some other parts of the country. A feature of this outbreak was that it seemed particularly to affect persons in the working age groups and was relatively sparing in its effects in the young and in the elderly.

Measles.

An outbreak occurred in the Spring of 1970. Unfortunately due to lack of supplies of measles vaccine during 1969 and part of 1970 the numbers of susceptible children built up. Measles is usually a winter disease and until recent years outbreaks were usually sharp i.e. the outbreak reached its peak in one or two months and then subsided. Recent experience has been different. Outbreaks have occurred in the Spring and Summer and the outbreaks have lasted over a period of 4 - 6 months without a noticeable peak. This no doubt is due to a partially immunised population of children.

Salmonella Infections.

One or two persons who had been on the same tour as persons who developed Typhoid at Benidorm in Spain were investigated with negative results.

Four persons returning from Spain were found to be infected with other Salmonella organisms. Two were infected with Salmonella typhi-murium and were followed up until negative specimens were obtained. Family contacts were negative.

The other two cases were more complicated. One man was found to be infected with *Salmonella heidelberg*. This organism was isolated from a blood culture and his illness was quite severe, resembling paratyphoid. He was admitted to hospital for eight days. In this instance contact was made with the Department of Health, the tour operator in London was contacted, and names and addresses of all persons on the same flight and at the same resort were obtained. The Medical Officers of Health at their home addresses were informed.

The last case had been to Benidorm for one month and was found to be suffering from an infection with *Salmonella brandenburg*. He had stayed at a flat and specimens were taken from those who had been with him and also from family contacts. Negative results were obtained. The man continued to excrete the organism for some time and was kept under surveillance until consecutive negative specimens were obtained.

Food poisoning.

An outbreak of food poisoning due to *Staphylococcus aureus* occurred at a rest home for elderly persons within the district. Six patients and one member of staff were affected. The outbreak commenced two hours after lunch on August 1st. The symptoms were vomiting and prostration but were fortunately of short duration, most persons being up and about by the next day.

No organisms were isolated from any of the persons affected but specimens of food had been kept and a heavy growth of coagulase positive *Staphylococcus aureus* was obtained from cold tongue which had been served at lunchtime. The organism concerned produced enterotoxin. The tongue had been boiled the previous day and refrigerated overnight. On the Saturday morning it was taken to a local grocer for slicing. A food handler had a small burn on her right forearm and a coagulase positive *Staphylococcus* was isolated from this, but it was not the same phage type as the *Staphylococcus* isolated from the tongue. Nevertheless, the outbreak was considered to be due to handling of the tongue and the management of the establishment, who co-operated wholeheartedly throughout the investigation, were advised on subsequent handling of foods.

Infectious jaundice.

Cases occurred sporadically throughout the year. All notified cases were visited. In about half of the cases there was contact with a previous case either at home or in the district. In the remaining cases no possible source of the infection could be ascertained.

TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of New Cases

AGE	New Cases				Inward Transfers			
	Pul.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 - 54	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65+	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	8	3	1	1	-	1	-	-
	13				1			
	14							

Comparison with previous years

Year	New Cases	Inward Transfers	Deaths
Average 1946-50	26	5	14
" 1951-55	32	11	6
" 1956-60	23	11	2
" 1960-65	13	8	1
1966	12	7	2
1967	9	4	-
1968	8	2	1
1969	6	3	-
1970	13	1	2

Tuberculosis Register 1970

	No. of cases on register at commencement of year		No. of cases added to register		No. of cases removed from		No. of cases remaining	
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.
Males	51	4	8	1	11	-	48	5
Females	32	5	4	1	8	2	28	4

There was an increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified in 1970. The table below shows that two adjacent districts also had an increase accounting for most of the new cases in Northumberland. The matter was discussed with the Chest Physicians at Newcastle East and West Chest Clinics. No possible connection between cases could be identified. While the matter will be kept under review it was concluded that the increase was something of a statistical quirk and not of real significance.

Notifications of Tuberculosis (All forms) 1956-70.

	<u>1956-60</u>	<u>1961-65</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Northumberland (Admin. County)	393	216	131	121	108	70	104
Newcastle upon Tyne (C.B.)	315	176	122	116	95	101	104
Gosforth U.D.	23	13	12	9	8	6	13
Newburn U.D.	20	16	7	8	7	4	13
Castle Ward R.D.	9	10	6	8	6	4	10

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Immunisation and vaccination are given according to the following schedule :-

<u>VISITS</u>	<u>at AGE</u>	<u>VACCINE</u>
1	4 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis
2	6 months	do
3	12 months	do
4	2nd year	Measles
5	2nd year	Smallpox
6	4 - 5 years	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Oral Poliomyelitis
7	10 -12 years	B.C.G. (if necessary after skin test).
8	13 -14 years	Rubella (girls only).
9	On leaving school	Tetanus and Oral Poliomyelitis

Measles vaccination was introduced in 1968 when 416 children were done. Early in 1969 the principal manufacturer withdrew supplies because of doubts about safety. It was mid 1970 before supplies became freely available again. Only 180 children were immunised in 1969. Unfortunately, this was insufficient to stop a measles outbreak in the spring of 1970.

Rubella vaccine became available in the autumn of 1970. Rubella, or german measles, is a mild disease but, if it is contracted by a woman in the early months of pregnancy, then it can lead to abnormalities of the foetus. With this in mind vaccination is being offered to girls only, in their 14th year, that is well before the years of child bearing.

Numbers immunised during 1970

Type of Antigen	Year of Birth						Total
	1970	1969	1968	1967	1963-66	1954-62	
Triple Primary	20	217	24	2	3	-	266
Diphtheria/Tetanus Primary	-	5	3	-	21	-	29
Tetanus Primary	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Triple Reinforcing	-	3	36	17	133	3	192
Diphtheria/Tetanus Reinforcing	-	1	18	3	187	7	216
Diphtheria Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	2	11	13
Poliomyelitis Primary	10	241	30	1	3	1	286
Poliomyelitis Reinforcing	-	12	53	23	312	176	576
Smallpox Primary Vaccination	6	89	59	15	19	5	193
Smallpox Re-vaccination	-	-	-	-	4	9	13
Measles Vaccination	2	96	90	32	112	12	344
Rubella Vaccination	-	-	-	-	-	110	110

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1970.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again it is my very great pleasure and privilege to submit to you for your consideration my report on the work of the Health Department in the field of environmental health.

It is intensely gratifying to report that towards the end of the year the Council resolved to declare the area known as Fawdon Red House Farm Estate to be a smoke control area. This is the first area in the district to be declared a smoke control area and I trust that it will be the forerunner of many more areas to be declared. Authority was also given to your Chief Public Health Inspector to proceed with a survey of an adjoining area with a view to a second smoke control area being declared. I derive immense pleasure from this move on the part of the Council as I feel that this is one section of public health activity which is vital to the community, and its effects can be real and rewarding.

Activity in the field of housing was mainly confined to dealing with applications under the Housing Act 1969 for Standard Grants and Qualification Certificates.

It has always been my earnest endeavour to achieve the highest standards of hygiene in food shops, including mobile food shops, and this year has been no exception.

As in previous years considerable efforts were again made to secure for employees in offices, and shops of all description, the maximum benefits to be derived from the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the district has a piped water supply, provided by the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company. Once again I am greatly indebted to Dr. A.T. Palin, Chief Chemist to the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company for supplying the following information.

Bacteriological Examination.

1001 works control samples from Whittle Dene and Throckley were examined in the Company's laboratory: all were "satisfactory" save one which contained 1 coliform organism per 100 ml of sample. No E coli were found.

247 samples of the water from the Coquet Water Board's Warkworth plant were taken at Longbenton Governor House. Two were "unsatisfactory" (check samples were "satisfactory") and the remainder "satisfactory".

Gosforth U.D.C. is supplied with water from both Warkworth and Whittle Dene/Throckley.

During the year twelve samples taken in the area were subjected to bacteriological examination: all were "satisfactory".

Chemical Examination.

There were no significant changes in the average chemical composition of the water supplied for domestic consumption.

Fluoridation was practised at Whittle Dene and at the Henderson (Throckley) works. The concentration of fluoride ion in the supplies from these works was maintained at 1.0 milligrammes per litre, the optimum dose for the promotion of dental health.

Typical Results of Chemical Analyses of Filtered Waters

	<u>Max</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>Mean</u>
pH Value	7.7	7.0	7.2
Free CO ₂	16	2	6
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	160	60	90
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)			
Total	200	100	150
Carbonate	160	60	90
Non-Carbonate	80	30	60
Calcium	190	70	120
Magnesium	60	20	30
Chlorides (as Cl)	17	9	12
Sulphates (as SO ₄)	70	20	50
Silica (as SiO ₂)	4.2	0.8	2.4
Fluorides (as F)	1.1	0.9	1.0
Iron (as Fe)	0.25	0.01	0.07
Manganese (as Mn)	0.05	0.01	0.01
Free & Saline Ammonia (as N)	0.23	0.04	0.12
Albuminoid Ammonia (as N)	0.20	0.01	0.09
Nitrates (as N)	2.0	0.1	0.8
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate	3.4	1.0	2.0
Dissolved Solids	280	130	210

Chemical results in milligrams per litre

NOTES:

1. Over much of the distribution system the water is a blend of the products of the principal treatment plants.
2. These plants in turn receive water in variable proportions from the several sources utilized by the Company.
3. It is therefore difficult to predict the composition of the supply to any particular point and the maxima and minima quoted are not to be regarded as absolute values but rather as limits not likely to be exceeded in normal circumstances.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse Collection.

Contrary to previous reports, there were occasions when it was virtually impossible to maintain a weekly collection of refuse from all premises. Failure to maintain our excellent record resulted from persistent "break-downs" among the vehicles, a situation further aggravated by the inability to secure spare parts for some of the vehicles, particularly the older ones. Allied to these unfortunate events was the increase in man-hours lost through sick leave, and longer holidays enjoyed by a greater number of the collectors.

Coping with the tremendous quantity of refuse from the premises on the Regent Centre proved quite a problem. This is a problem which is likely to become acute when the area is fully developed. However, some relief to the situation was afforded when I took delivery of our first 40/50 cu. yd. Pakamatic refuse collecting vehicle in August.

Despite the kindly gesture of Longbenton Urban District Council consenting to their tip being designated by this Council as a place where persons residing within the urban district of Gosforth may themselves dispose of, free of charge, any domestic refuse, increasing demands were still being made upon the department for special collections of bulky articles, particularly unwanted furniture.

Refuse Disposal.

Disposal of refuse continued to take place at the site on the old Coast Road, the average distance from Gosforth to the disposal point being approximately 4 miles. The number of loads deposited at the site was 4815, a reduction of 261 loads upon the previous year. This reduction in loads, despite the ever increasing volume of refuse, may be attributable to the acquisition of larger capacity vehicles.

I understand from Mr. Thirkoll, Chief Public Health Inspector of Longbenton Urban District Council, that the "life" of the present tip is approximately eighteen months. However, there is a possibility of acquiring a site adjacent to the existing one, which could extend the "life" to approximately three years.

Information received from the City Engineer's Department indicates that the incinerator, which will deal with refuse from Newcastle, Newburn, Longbenton and Gosforth, may not now be in operation until mid-1975.

We are indeed truly grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Longbenton Urban District Council for continuing to provide this Council with facilities for the disposal of refuse. I would also like to thank Mr. Thirkell and his staff for their co-operation in connection with the disposal of refuse and, in particular, I would like to thank Mr. Thirkell for his untiring efforts to secure additional sites suitable to the requirements of both authorities.

Salvage Disposal.

The quantity of waste paper forwarded to the Board Mills during the financial year ended the 31st March 1971, was 278 tons, a reduction of 43 tons upon the previous financial year. The figure of 278 tons represents 0.85 tons per month per 1000 of population. The reduction in the output of waste paper was mainly associated with newsprint, where the % reduction was $33\frac{1}{3}\%$. Apropos the reduction in the tonnage of mixed paper, this amounted to just over 6%. There can be little doubt that the rising cost of newspapers largely contributed to the low output of newsprint.

The tonnage of paper, together with the respective grades forwarded to the Board Mills, and the income received from the sale thereof, is shown as follows :-

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Tonnes</u>	<u>£ . p</u>
Mixed Paper	221.86	2243 . 82
Newsprint	<u>55.96</u>	<u>689 . 76</u>
	<u>277.82</u>	<u>£2933 . 58</u>

Staff.

The sickness rate among the manual staff continued to soar. The amount involved being £1246, representing 2975 man-hours, as against £970., representing 2635 man-hours for the previous year.

HOUSING

During the year I submitted a report to the Health Committee on the condition of a number of one-bedroom flats in the Henry Street area.

The Committee resolved that a survey of the whole of the Henry Street area be undertaken with a view to the declaration, if necessary, of a clearance area. It will be remembered that Henry Street was included in the 4-year Slum Clearance Programme submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in February 1970.

The Housing Act 1969 introduces a new system governing the rents of privately rented dwellings which have been brought up to a satisfactory standard. The chief responsibility of Local Authorities in relation to these rent provisions will be to deal with applications for certificates relating to the state of the dwelling where it is let on a controlled tenancy.

The Act lays down a procedure which, if followed, enables a landlord of a house subject to a controlled tenancy, to convert the tenancy of one subject to rent regulation. The landlord must apply to the local authority for a Qualification Certificate. This will be granted after a full inspection of the house and if the house either does, or will, fulfil certain conditions, notably be in good repair and possess the standard amenities. After completion of any necessary improvements and repair works he would be entitled to a "fair rent" as agreed by the Rent Officer or fixed by the Rent Assessment Committee.

The responsibility of dealing with applications for Qualification Certificates was delegated to your Chief Public Health Inspector. During the year 345 such applications were received and, in the corresponding period, 169 Qualification Certificates were issued. The work involved in dealing with these applications was fairly considerable and entailed making over 600 visits.

Housing Statistics.

New houses completed during the year.

a) By Local Authority	Nil
b) By private persons	273
Total number of inhabited houses	9375

Closing and demolition.

Housing demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
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REPAIR.

Houses made fit.

a) By informal action	185
b) By owners, following Statutory action	1

Slum Clearance Programme

Housing Act 1957.

Part <u>III</u> Houses still to be cleared	104
Part <u>II</u> Houses likely to be subject to demolition or closing orders	104

Housing Act 1969

Discretionary Grants.

Applications submitted to local authority	12
Applications rejected	2
Applications approved	6

Approximate average grant approved per house	£292.
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Standard Grants.

	<u>During the</u> <u>year</u>	<u>Total to</u> <u>date</u>
1. No. of separate houses for which grants have been made	27	209
2. No. of houses so provided with -		
(a) Bath or shower	5	100
(b) Wash-hand basin	7	120
(c) Hot water supply	8	119
(d) Internal water closet	12	174

AIR POLLUTION

During the year the Council confirmed a resolution of the Health Committee resolving that an Order be made under the provisions of Section 11 of the Clean Air Act 1956, declaring the area known as Red House Farm Estate to be a smoke control area and for the said Order to be submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment, for confirmation.

The resolution was subject to assurances being received that sufficient supplies of solid smokeless fuels would be available at the time the Order becomes operative. These assurances were duly received from the Regional Officer of the Solid Smokeless Fuels Federation. Similar assurances were received from the Northern Gas Board and the North Eastern Electricity Board regarding adequacy of supplies of gas and electricity.

The area consists of 771 dwelling houses, all privately owned, of which 524 dwellings were erected before 16th August 1964. The number of dwellings requiring works of adaptation and replacement is 189, the acreage covered being 100.

Towards the end of the year I received authority to proceed with a detailed survey of an area situated immediately east of Red House Farm Estate, so that consideration could be given to the making of a second smoke control area.

Readings of air pollution obtained through the volumetric gauge situated at the Council Depot, Christon Road, continued throughout the year.

NOISE ABATEMENT

Only six noise nuisances were reported during the year, three of which arose from industrial processes. These complaints were duly investigated and advice given, subsequent to which remedial measures were undertaken by the firms concerned. Although the nuisances were not entirely eliminated, some improvement was achieved. It is hoped that in the coming year further improvements will be achieved so that the noise level is reduced to an absolute minimum.

The other nuisances involved animal keeping and the holding of convivial evenings in a flat, when music, etc., caused excessive noise which upset neighbours.

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND DRAIN TESTING

Activity in this important field, i.e. the supervision of the layout and testing of new drainage systems and similar duties in connection with the repair and reconstruction of existing systems, was much greater than in the previous year.

The major part of this work was confined to the construction of new buildings, both domestic and commercial, where contractors were operating on sites situated at Craghall Dene, Hollywood Avenue and the Regent Centre. Apropos existing dwellings, the work was mainly concerned with the improvement of dwelling houses.

A total of 3507 yards of new drainage was tested necessitating the application of 262 water tests and 100 smoke tests.

The Engineer and Surveyor informs me that during the year his department dealt with 111 drain stoppages.

DISINFESTATION

As in previous years the wasp and the cockroach proved to be the most troublesome. Twenty-three complaints were dealt with in connection with the former and seventeen in connection with the latter. During the year ten different species of insects were dealt with which, unfortunately, included two infestations of bed bugs.

I am again very grateful to the Regional Pests Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, for prompt attention given to requests for identification of insects and for his advice in matters of extermination. Group meetings convened by the Ministry to discuss various aspects of pest control have again proved most interesting and informative.

RODENT INFESTATION

One hundred and eleven complaints were received during the year as against one hundred and one the previous year. The number of premises involved was one hundred and thirty-six and, of these, ninety-eight were found to be infested with rats and thirty-six infested with mice. There was no evidence of rats or mice in the remaining two houses, and there was no evidence of any major infestation.

The rodenticides used were Warfarin and Alphakil, the latter again proving very successful in connection with infestations of mice.

The majority of business premises continue to be regularly serviced by servicing agents. This is a very wise and necessary precaution, particularly in connection with food premises.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Owing to increasing demands being made upon the Department, notably in the field of housing, less time was devoted in the administration of this Act than has been the case in previous years. A significant feature of this section of my report is the reduction in the number of contraventions found. I feel this is due in no small way to the painstaking efforts exercised by your Inspectors in previous years.

Lack of cleanliness headed the list of contraventions with lighting a close second. In connection with lighting contraventions, the number found was a considerable reduction upon the previous year.

Ten accidents were reported, the same number as for the previous year. All were investigated as a matter of routine and none proved to be serious. Falls of persons again figured prominently among the accidents reported.

Registrations and General Inspections

(1) Class of Premises	(2) Number of premises registered during the year.	(3) Total number of registered premises at end of year.	(4) Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	5	124	114
Retail Shops	4	164	156
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	4	4
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	-	19	19
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS:	9	311	293

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS TO REGISTERED PREMISES - 322

Analysis by workplace of persons
employed in registered premises

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
(1)	(2)
Offices	1760
Retail shops	782
Wholesale departments, warehouses	64
Catering establishments open to the public	197
Canteens	68
Fuel storage depots	-
Total	2871
Total Males	1270
Total Females	1601

Analysis of Contraventions

-32-

Section	Number of Contraventions found	Section	Number of Contraventions found
4	Cleanliness 21	13	Sitting facilities -
5	Overcrowding -	14	Seats (Sedentary Workers) -
6	Temperature 2	15	Eating facilities -
7	Ventilation 2	16	Floors, passages & stairs 4
8	Lighting 15	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery 6
9	Sanitary conveniences 9	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery -
10	Washing facilities 11	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery 1
11	Supply of drinking water -	23	Prohibition of heavy work -
12	Clothing accommodation -	24	First-aid 13
			Other matters 9
			TOTAL 93

Analysis of reported accidents

CAUSATION	Offices	Retail shops	Catering establishments open to public, canteens
Machinery	1	2	-
Transport	-	-	-
Falls of persons	-	1	3
Stepping on or striking against object or person	-	-	-
Handling goods	-	1	1
Struck by falling object	-	-	-
Fires and explosions	-	-	1
Electricity	-	-	-
Use of hand tools	-	-	-
Not otherwise specified	1	-	-

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

During the year 6 samples of water, 2 from the teaching pool and 4 from the main pool, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The result of the examination showed that the probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. in each sample, was nil.

I am indebted to the Baths Superintendent for the following additional information.

No. Samples	pH Value		Combined Residual Chlorine		Free Residual Chlorine		Total Residual Chlorine	
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
14 (per week)	7.4	7.6	0.2	0.2	1.0	1.5	1.0+	1.5+

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part 1.

Inspections.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	65	18	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	4	Nil	Nil
Total	69	22	Nil	Nil

Factories Act 1961

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient...	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Factories Act 1961

PART VIII

(OUTWORK)

(Sections 133 & 134)

	Section 133	Section 134			
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing) making apparel } etc. } cleaning } and } washing	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

Food Premises.

There are one hundred and fifty-four food premises in the district, details of which are described in the following table :-

Type of Premises	No.	Type of Premises	No.
General Dealers	38	Premises with 'off-Licence'	9
Licensed Premises	26	Fried Fish & Chips	6
Meat Purveyors	18	Cafes, Snack-Bars	7
Confectioners	18	Fishmongers & Poulterers	3
Retail Bakers	14	Bakehouses	2
Fruiterers	13		

A total of two hundred and one visits were made to the various food premises in the district, subsequent to which it was found necessary to serve forty-five informal notices in connection with infringements of the Regulations.

Despite the decrease in the total number of visits made to the various food premises throughout the district, a watchful eye was kept on all food premises so as to ensure the highest standards being maintained. There are some premises where constant visitation is necessary, particularly to those not of the highest standard. In these instances, the problem appears to be associated with the difficulty of engaging and keeping staff.

To a considerable extent, persuasion is the keynote to promote good standards of food hygiene. The aim is first and foremost to secure the willing co-operation of all concerned, Managers and staff alike. Unfortunately, there are occasions when legislation has to be invoked and in one instance legal proceedings were instituted against a firm for failing to comply with the Regulations. The firm was fined a total of £30., plus £5. costs.

It was proposed to take legal proceedings against another firm for failing to provide an adequate supply of hot water. However, the proprietor complied with the Regulations and the case was withdrawn.

Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Section 16 (Registration of food premises).

Three new applications for the registration of food premises were received during the year. There were three deletions from the register.

Sixty-nine premises are now registered for the sale of ice-cream, and thirty-two for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food, intended for sale.

The type and number of food premises registered as aforesaid is shown as follows :-

Type of Premises	No. Regd.	Type of Premises	No. Regd.
General Dealers	34	Fruiterers	6
Confectioners	15	'Off-Licence'	5
Meat Purveyors	14	Bakehouses	2
Retail Bakers	7	Cafe, Snack-Bars	3
Fried Fish & Chips	6	Fishmongers	1

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966.

The Regulations came into operation on the 1st January 1967, and revoked the provisions of the General Regulations dealing with markets, stalls, etc. Certain provisions of the General Regulations ceased to apply to food businesses to which the new Regulations apply, and to any person employed in the handling of food in the course of such a business.

A total of thirty-three inspections of mobile food traders was carried out, resulting in the service of fifteen informal notices. These notices were concerned with a variety of matters, but mainly referred to cleanliness and lack of suitable washing facilities. The Regulations, with certain exceptions, require hand washing facilities, and facilities for washing food and equipment to be provided on stalls, etc. Owing to restricted space some operators are experiencing a little difficulty in complying with the Regulations. Here again, persuasion is the keynote to promote good standards of food hygiene and, when this method of approach fails, legislation must be invoked.

Towards the end of the year the Council resolved to institute legal proceedings against three food traders for failing to comply with the Regulations

Poultry Inspection.

There are no poultry processing premises situated in the district.

Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Section 2. (General protection for purchasers of food and drugs).

Section 8. (Sale, etc. of food unfit for human consumption).

During the year twelve complaints were received, each alleging the unfitness of food sold for human consumption. Six of these complaints referred to the alleged sale of food in a mouldy condition.

The increasing number of complaints received in connection with the sale of mouldy food would appear to suggest that some traders are completely oblivious to the need for proper stock rotation of perishable foods. However, an encouraging sign in this direction is the number of retailers who have prepared their own coding system to ensure proper stock rotation.

Legal proceedings were instituted in six instances, resulting in fines of £60. being imposed, plus £20. costs. Two of the cases referred to food containing extraneous matter, the remaining four cases referred to food sold in a mouldy condition.

Unsound Food (voluntarily surrendered).

Sixty-six pounds of canned food and one hundred and eighty-eight pounds of other foods were voluntarily surrendered and suitably disposed of in the incinerator situated at the Council depot.

Adulteration of Food.

I am indebted to Mr. C.L. Arlidge, Chief Inspector of Weights & Measures, Northumberland County Council, for supplying me with details of samples taken by his sampling officers in the Urban District of Gosforth during the year under review.

Mr. Arlidge informs me that one hundred and fifteen samples were procured, of which one was found not to be satisfactory.

Particulars of unsatisfactory sample

Article

Remarks

Jam Sponge
(Pre-packed)

An illustration of a sponge cake on the face of the container depicted a cake dusted with icing sugar. The cake inside the carton was NOT dusted with icing sugar. The manufacturers stated that the packing of unsugared cakes was an experiment which would cease at once. All future cakes to be sugared.

TABLE 1

(Complaints received and dealt with)

<u>Nature of Complaint</u>	<u>No. of Complaints</u>
Dampness (dwelling house)	16
Streams	2
Disrepair (dwelling house)	28
Extraneous matter in food	10
Foul Smells	7
Noise Nuisances	6
Vermin (Insects)	64
Vermin (Rats)	83
Vermin (Mice)	28
Atmospheric Pollution	2
Defective Dustbins	2
Pigeons	1
Miscellaneous	27
Total	<u>276</u>

TABLE 11

(Summary of Visits)

Accumulations	14
Dwelling Houses	367
Ditches and Streams	52
Drainage Systems	305
Drain Test :-	
Smoke	100
Water	262
Factories (Mechanical)	18
Food Premises	201
Ice-Cream Samples	2
Infectious Disease Enquiries	43
" " Revisits	1
Improvement Grants	265
Licensed Premises	9
Mobile Shops etc.	33
National Assistance Act	12
Noise Nuisances	17
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	332
Pigeons	16
Piggeries	1
Qualification Certificates	638
Rodent Infestation:-	
Rats	684
Mice	199
Refuse Collection Supervision	468
Schools re Sanitation	2
Scrap Metal Dealers Act	1
Smoke Observations	162
Verminous Premises	169
Water Samples	8
Workplaces	7
Miscellaneous	285
Total	<u><u>4673</u></u>

CONCLUSION

In concluding my report, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Health Committee and all other members of the Council for their kind support throughout the year, and for the courteous manner in which my reports to the various Committees have been received and dealt with. I am equally grateful to the Clerk of the Council and to Dr. Smith for their support and kindly advice.

During the year the staff was augmented by the appointment of Mr. Stephen Taylor, who commenced his duties with the Council in July as a Technical Assistant. Mr. Taylor's duties will be mainly confined to the promotion of our smoke control programme.

Looking back over the year I feel that the Department has achieved a great deal and I am particularly indebted to Mr. Gibson for his painstaking efforts and to the clerical staff, Mrs. Kershaw and Miss Jastrzab, who have worked diligently and conscientiously.

I am, Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

GEORGE STENGER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

